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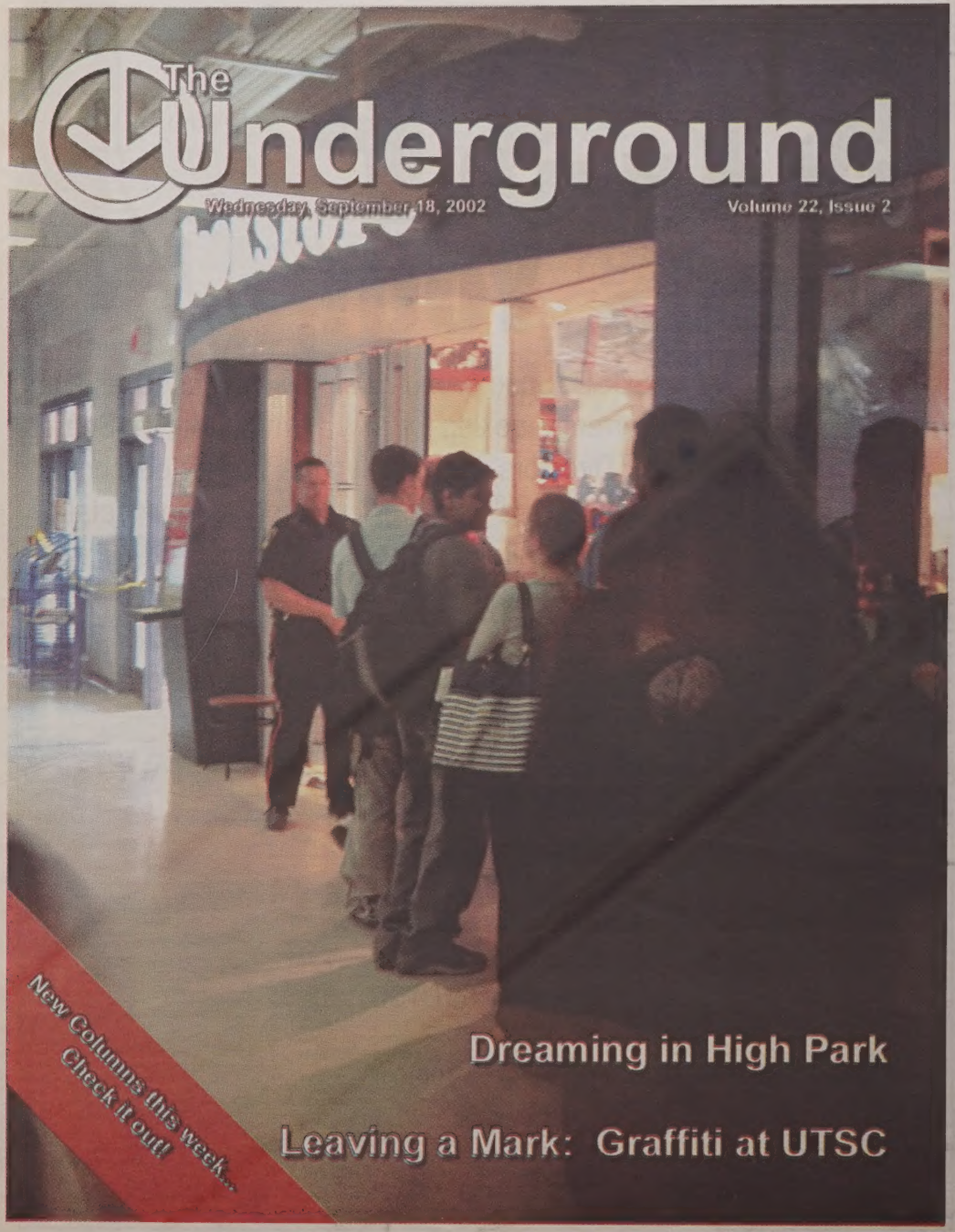

The Underground

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Volume 22, Issue 2

New Columns this week... Check it out!

Dreaming in High Park

Leaving a Mark: Graffiti at UTSC

SCSP Needs You!

SCSP (Scarborough Campus Student Press) is currently looking for new members for it's Board of Directors. Anyone who is interested should contact the Underground for further details.

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SCSP is currently looking for people to fill the following positions:

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1 member of the faculty, staff, or alumni of UTSC

Anyone who is interested in starting up another publication under SCSP may also apply

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Letters and Opinions Policy

At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous of malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

For a more official-sounding **Letters and Opinions Policy** contact ***undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca***

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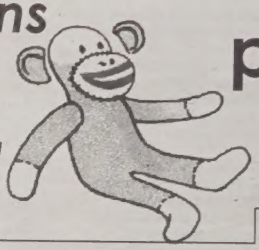
by Kelly Lisle



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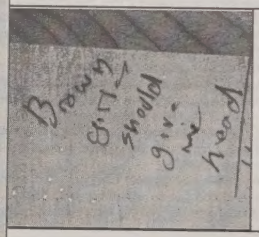

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editorial

Discovering St. George

St. George Campus can be a frightening place for a UTSC student. Class sizes are larger, enrolment restrictions are enforced (who knew you really had to have prerequisites?) and the sprawling campus is home to buildings and buildings of rooms; your class could be in any one of them. If you think finding S-309 is tough, try scouring the whole of St. George for VC-214 with only ten minutes between classes.

Taking classes downtown requires a certain amount of planning; an amount of planning, as a former resident at UTSC, which this editor is entirely unfamiliar with. Making use of the Campus Map is essential, and taking down the name of the building your class is held in (don't forget the street and room numbers) can mean the difference between getting there early and being thirty minutes late. St. George can throw you a real curve, if you don't show up prepared.

And it's in the best interests of most UTSC students to explore the downtown campus. If you haven't already discovered it, making the trek to St. George will be increasingly necessary for all of us. With the V. W. Bladen Library all but shut down (keeping it open must be someone's idea of a cruel joke), the resources available at U of T's libraries downtown will become indispensable for diligent students and procrastinators alike. If one plans to spend a few days waiting for one's research materials to be shipped out here, it almost behooves one to make the long trip downtown oneself, and access those materials immediately.

Once on the St. George campus it becomes clear that for all the incidental fees UTSC students send downtown, it really is a shame to not make use of the services provided there. Take a swim at Hart House, drop in for a free movie at Innis College, check out the Art Gallery at University College or otherwise get your money's worth. We're all spending enormous amounts of money to go to school here, so we might as well take advantage of everything this place has to offer.

Now's the time to do it, while UTSC is under construction, while our library is out-cold and the snow's still a month or so away... The word on the street is that at some point in the future, we might not send so many of our fees downtown. If that's the case, then it might not be a bad idea to make use of St. George's services while we've got them, because once we're through paying they won't be available. Who knows, you might even find something downtown that we haven't got here, some student service you never knew you couldn't live without; like a decent cafeteria or an on-campus pub.

Chris McKinnon
Editor in chief

"To kill a human being is, after all, the least injury you can do to him."

- Henry James, **My Friend Bingham** (1867)

9/11 still a touchy subject for the arts

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

Just so everyone knows, this editorial is about September 11, so if you don't want to think about it, stop reading. I found it interesting that as I worked on this year's first issue of The Underground, people would ask me when it was due to come out. When they found out it was September 11, many asked, with a cautious tone, if we were going to "do a big 9/11 thing." Well, no, we didn't do a big 9/11 thing. People seemed relieved to hear me say that.

I guess people are just sick of hearing the media's homage/opinions on the topic, even if it's their local student media. After last year's cult obsession with CNN and the almost perverse voyeurism it lent the tragedy in the weeks and months after it had taken place, I guess people are a little sensitive about hearing it mentioned next to their daily news. But this got me thinking of 9/11 and its relationship with the media and the arts. I'll try to make this brief.

There has been a weird line between what is appropriate when dealing with 9/11 and what isn't. It's a pretty blurry line. Take the early trailers for the Spiderman movie. They contained a picture of a helicopter, caught in a web, hanging between the Twin Towers. After 9/11, it was yanked from the screen. Since this happened right after the tragedy, it seemed appropriate to remove it. People we're probably too sore to deal with that image right then. But a friend commented to me, "So we're supposed to forget they were ever there?"

Other people dealing with the topic have been subjected to harsh criticism. The play Steve Martin put on with other celebrities about the average person's reaction caught a lot of flack for dealing with the sensitive subject. Meanwhile people seemed to enjoy South Park's more tenacious reaction of cartoon violence aimed at the Taliban. I guess by this time people were at least ready to laugh.

One interesting example is Karen Reno, a comic featured in this year's film festival who, while other comedians were still silenced, didn't pause in making her reaction to the tragedy part of her act. Other artists have come together to create a more diverse collection of reactions. Comic book artists of all styles released a collection of shorts that depicted their feelings. More recently the film festival showed 11'09"01, a collection of filmed shorts by various directors.

I guess what I'm trying to get at, if anything, is that it seems for some people that the topic of 9/11 passed from too sensitive to deal with to too over exposed to hear about anymore, without stopping in between. I appreciate the works of comic artists and film makers in pooling their talents to share in their reactions. Perhaps a person can still take an honest look at the human reaction to this great tragedy without being cynical or dwelling too long on it. It's history unfurling; don't be nervous about it.

"Some day we'll look back on this, laugh awkwardly and change the subject" - Anonymous

Liked what you read? Want to praise us?

Send any opinions or letters to the editor to:

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or email undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca with "Opinion" or "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

(By the way, you can also criticize us if you really, really, really must)

opinions opinions

Father Knows Best: A Letter to Daddy Mathers

Frog In My Throat

Merika I. Ramundo

Dear Eminem,

No, this isn't a love letter from Stan. I bit the proverbial ghetto bullet and bought your newest cd today. I don't know what possessed me to do it but I did. No, I take that back, I do know why I did it. I wanted to know what the fuss is all about...plus your newest tunes "Cleaning Out My Closet" and "Without Me" are pretty darn catchy. I've heard your hip-hop on the radio, bleeps and all. I've seen the racy music videos and your "flip the bird" demeanor at awards shows. I've come across tid-bits here and there about your general shit-disturbing attitude, particularly towards women, homosexuals and a technocrat named Moby. Hell, we all know about your childhood. You really are one candy that Freud would love to sink his teeth into. And yet, somehow I don't buy it-any of it.

I don't buy into the pity that we should show you if the family stories you tell are in fact true. I also don't buy into the American government's attempt at trying to censor your music....you are after all, whether we like it or not, an artist of sorts. Freedom of speech, I'll give you that. Parental responsibility, now that's one I have to call you on. I can't believe that after everything that you claim to have gone through in your personal life that you would subject your young daughter, Hailie, to a similar fate. Why have her sing "my dad's gone crazy" on the track of the same name? Why degrade her mother in your songs? Why pull out a gun and pull a random act of violence on your child's mother? Do you know what you are doing to your child? Dr. Phil, anyone?

So, what the hell is going on here? One word: commodity. We have all talked about the shock rock stylings of Marilyn Manson, Howard Stern or Madonna. They were called innovative, avant-garde, provocative, outrageous, deplorable, even scandalous. What are they doing now? Howard, how are your ratings? Material Girl: tell me does your theatre/film work stand up to the rest of the industry? Need I say more? I'm sure that you, Eminem, would like to think of yourself as a young Ozzy Osbourne. Your CD surely plays like a reality show based on family drama. PLAYS is the operative word here Marshall. It's not real... what are you hiding? The story of the Osbourne clan has become so successful because we are offered vulgarity and vulnerability simultaneously....ah, the "v" words, so precious, so fragile. The problem for me is that although you clean out your closet, I still can't see the whole picture because you choose to leave it ajar. But I guess that's why you've called your latest CD The Eminem Show. There is a curtain. There is an audience. You either hide behind it or step up to give your motherf*#$ing performance. Art imitating life? Bravo, Mr. Mathers. But tell me this: will your daughter always be left to wait in the green room?

Yours truly,

Merika I. Ramundo

George W. Bush's Scary Rhetoric

Chris McKinnon
Editor in Chief

I do not pretend to know much about international politics. I admit that I understand very little about the organisation or function of the United Nations, anything to do with foreign trade or issues of global security. But I do know a little about rhetoric; I know a few sneaky tricks to make a weak argument seem more persuasive; I know those tricks when I see them and I see them whenever George W. Bush speaks.

His rhetoric is broad and sweeping; it paints easy black and white pictures, and that makes it particularly despicable. He speaks in an oversimplified manner: America the Just will triumph over Evil. And his speeches embody romantic notions of defiance and independence. America will take a stand, will do it alone if she has to, will protect all things American: Liberty, Democracy, Justice. When the most powerful man in the world speaks like this, in sweeping ideological forms: I get scared. When he turns to Americans in a time of great tragedy, comforts them with cautious words, and then pledges to overturn Evil Dictators in a bid to rid the world of anything that endangers the American way of life, I get scared.

We are citizens of an age of complexity. Nothing is simple any longer; And this is not de facto a bad thing. If life were a simple thing, then living by simple rules would be a safe bet. Given the complexity of our current political climate, I'd prefer to have a correspondingly more complex rule-book. My problem with Bush Jr. lies in his readiness and his willingness to simplify complex issues and then apply solutions based on those simplifications. Evil men destroyed the World Trade Center? Angry men. Deranged, psychotic, fanatic perhaps, but Evil with a capital E? These are not the days of fire and brimstone raining down from above. The last time I checked, the Devil wasn't at work here on earth; but men were. Men destroyed the World Trade Center: People something like you and I. It might be scarier to think so, but ordinary people can do horrible things to one another, can do terrible things to many, without the help of the capital E-word. No one considers her/himself to be evil. It just doesn't happen that way. Hitler thought he was doing the world a favour. We obviously don't share his line of thinking; we often call the Holocaust evil. The Holocaust was an atrocity, committed by a small man with small vision. To call it evil is to give that small man too much credit, to make a small man into something more. Terrorists were responsible for the tragedies of September 11th, and that is something we must not forget. If we start to use the E-word we might get carried away; in our righteous indignation we might perpetrate horrors of our own.

The terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and the ensuing military action should not be reduced to old testament rhetoric of Good and Evil. We should not hide behind such grand narratives. America does not consist of the "Good guys", any more than the Arab world consists of the "Bad guys." The days of Good and Evil simply do not exist any longer, and when we encounter these words applied with such deadly seriousness to matters of politics, we should be wary of the speaker; such simplistic discourse is undue these days, dangerous even, if the masses succumb to its emotionally-charged coding, it's fear-driven rhetoric. This is not a time for crusading cowboys to save the world, but rather a time for rational deliberation and carefully measured action.

And so I have to remain skeptical when Bush espouses heavy-handed military action to eradicate an *ambiguously defined* global terrorist threat. I can only imagine how satisfying it must be for anti-American terrorists and fundamentalists to hear Bush's words confirming their assertions that the United States has a bloody foreign policy, that it is a bullying superpower.

No one should be led to believe that a solution to a problem as gross and complex as international terrorism might be so simple as taking military action on any nation that harbours terrorism, or refuses to otherwise join the war on terrorism. Military might alone cannot solve this problem; war as foreign policy is not our only option. There are terrorists in America. Certainly there are some in Canada, Mexico, anywhere really. Suspected terrorists are being apprehended here through intelligence operations. Military force, however, is being directed at nations in the Middle East, seemingly indiscriminately.

So now that George W. Bush would like to make a move on Iraq. We should feel compelled to say: Stop. Wait a minute. Let's look at this rationally. Let's remove the emotionally charged language here, *and let's look at this rationally.* We might find that the argument for a preemptive attack is weaker than we thought.

news news

Netanyahu defies critics at Toronto speech

Says terror won't stop in the Middle East until Arafat is gone

Published: Thu-12-Sep-2002

Ian Ferguson | *The Varsity*

TORONTO (CUP) – It was the speech Benjamin Netanyahu couldn't give at Concordia University.

In front of a sellout crowd of 2,000, the former Prime Minister of Israel defended his country's war against the Palestinian Authority.

"We have to uproot the terror regimes and plant the seeds of freedom," Netanyahu said. Outside the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts, a noisy crowd of pro-Palestinian protestors waved flags and chanted slogans, stared down by a smaller crowd of pro-Israeli activists.

Many of the protestors were from University of Toronto groups opposed to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, administered under the Palestinian Authority led by Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu was scheduled to make a speech at Concordia University in Montreal last Monday, but violent protests forced the cancellation of the event.

Netanyahu was introduced by Izzy Asper, executive chairman of Canwest Global Communications, the media conglomerate which owns the National Post and Global Television Network. In his remarks, Asper compared the Concordia protestors to the brownshirts, a group of Nazi thugs that accompanied Hitler"s rise to power in 1930s Germany.

"Yesterday in Montreal you saw the face of hatred," Asper said. He blamed "left-wing academics and the media" for distorting the Palestine conflict, saying "in the campuses of Canada and the United States they were fomenting hatred."

Asper received a standing ovation for his remarks. After taking the stage, Netanyahu joked that he expected more demonstrators at the North York event.

"I was terribly disappointed to hear that only 250 protestors are here — what happened?"

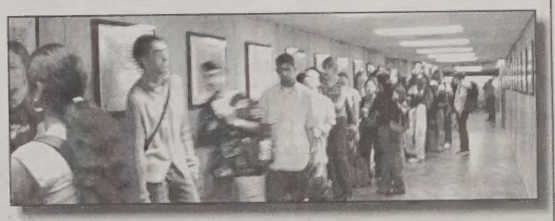
He said the "violent riot" at Concordia was not because of his ideas, because he "didn't even speak there." Instead, he said the protestors were angry at "Israel just existing."

"What you saw in Montreal was a microcosm, a window into hatred," he added. In his remarks, Netanyahu defined terrorism as the deliberate targeting of civilians in warfare to achieve political goals. He used the analogy of Japanese Kamikaze attacks against U.S. battleships during the Second World War to explain his government's strategy for dealing with Palestinian terror attacks. Sinking the aircraft carriers that launched the Kamikaze planes was the only way to stop the attacks. So defeating Palestinian terror means targeting the Palestinian Authority, Netanyahu said. "Arafat and all his cronies, they'll have to go down."

Netanyahu compared the history of Israel to the Palestinian struggle for independence. He denied that Jewish underground groups such as Irgun ever engaged in terrorist attacks — a common criticism of Palestinian supporters.

"I suppose you can make that argument to people whose historical understanding extends as far as breakfast," Netanyahu said, to enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

Instead, Netanyahu said that the Palestinians and their allies among Arab nations had turned to political struggle only after their combined armies were defeated by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War. He said that calling Isrealis the "real terrorists" is a "reversal of causality."



Restless students wait in line to get into our bookstore. Coffee and Timbits anyone?

Still Waiting In Line?

Underground Staff

Students have had to wait longer than usual to get into the Bookstore this year (might still be waiting even as this issue goes to press.) Mind you, at least they get to wait in a location that is more central.

Now I'm sure we all love the new indoor location of our Bookstore (it used to be housed in The Underground's snazzy portable), but the line-ups! Good God the line-ups!

Blame it on the smaller space. Blame it on ourselves for not ordering our books online in August. Blame it on the fascists (they're always fun to blame.) Blame it on the construction going on everywhere, or the fact that most people seem to be in class at the same time. Blame it on whatever the fuck you want, and you'll still be waiting in line.

Get used to it. You're looking at the same thing again next year, with even larger enrolment and even less space. Of course, next year you might be able to enjoy a fine cup of Tim Horton's coffee as you stand in line (all the way through the Hall of Excellence to the H-wing Café.)

That is, if Tim Horton's ever really opens. We at The Underground remain skeptical.

Notice of Fall Elections

The ***Scarborough Campus Students' Union*** will be holding their annual fall elections and by-elections during the following dates:

September 17-24: Nomination Period
September 26-October 7: Campaign Period
October 8-9: Voting Period

SCSU

For more information or to pick up a nomination package, please contact SCSU in the BladenBuilding at UTSC in room B-330, or at 416-287-7047

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~scsu

Get Elected, Get Involved

UTSC students and Shinerama raise $2800 for Cystic Fibrosis

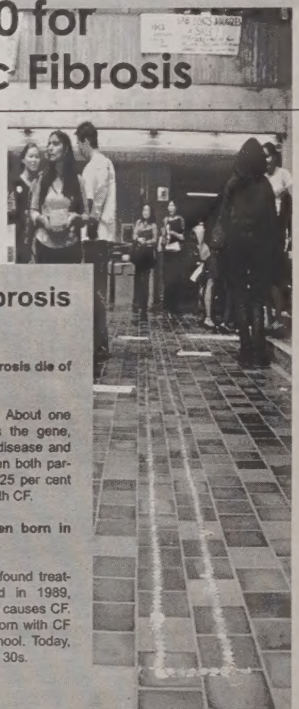
Underground Staff

Shinerama returned to UTSC for its second year, as students and residents raised money to help fund research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis.

On September 3rd, over 130 UTSC students took part in this year's Bay Street Shine-off, in the heart of Toronto's Financial District. The students managed to raise $2400 in just three hours, and had a great time doing it.

On September 12th, approximately $400 dollars more was raised as students donated their coinage to a "Loonie Mile," bringing this year's total to $2800 so far.

Shinerama was created in 1961, by first-year students at Waterloo Lutheran University, now Wilfrid Laurier University, as a way to add a charitable activity to their Orientation. The project has grown to become the largest university and college fundraising campaign, and to this date over $13 million has been raised to fight cystic fibrosis (CF), a hereditary disease that seriously compromises breathing and digestion in those who are affected. Cystic fibrosis continues to be a fatal disease, but with treatment many people with CF now live into their thirties. (For more details on Cystic Fibrosis, see side panel.)



Above: The Loonie Mile stretches through the Meeting Place to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis.

Cystic Fibrosis Facts

Most people with cystic fibrosis die of lung disease.

Who gets it?

Cystic fibrosis is inherited. About one in every 25 Canadians carries the gene, although they do not have the disease and can never get it. However, when both parents carry the gene, there is a 25 per cent chance their child will be born with CF.

One in every 2500 children born in Canada has CF.

Is there a cure?

Not yet. But research has found treatment that prolongs life. And in 1989, researchers found the gene that causes CF. Before 1960, half the children born with CF didn't live long enough to start school. Today, people with CF can live into their 30s.

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The AIDS Walk Returns

Underground Staff

The 14th annual AIDS Walk Toronto will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2002. It is the largest AIDS Walk in Canada and the funds raised go to support the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and its partner agencies. Since its inception the Walk has raised over $7 million through the partricipation of over 70 000 volunteers and walkers.

Along the route, walkers can expect to encounter a myriad of buskers, entertainers and other street performers that help to make the day a festive one. The popular 6.5km walk through Toronto's downtown-core culminates at Nathan Phillips Square where walkers can enjoy a free concert and partake in food and drink at the beer gardens on-site. On-hand will be plenty of local musicians, as well as a Community Fair where walkers and passers-by can visit booths showcasing AIDS service organisations in Toronto.

New to the AIDS Walk this year is an event titled The Drag Races. This new event promises to be a wildly entertaining time, where at the completion of the Walk, teams of Drag Kings and Queens will descend on the Square to compete in obstacle courses, three-heeled races and makeover challenges all in hopes of being crowned King or Queen of the day. The First Annual Drag Races will be hosted by prominent drag personalities Mad Madelaine, Zelda Angelfire and Enza "Supermodel" Anderson.

For more information on AIDS Walk Toronto, visit their website at www.aidswalktoronto.org or telephone the hotline at 416-340-WALK. A team of walkers from U of T is currently being assembled. To walk with U of T, please contact Daven Seebarren at 416-568-6572.

arts arts

A Film Festival recap

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

My week at the film festival has wrapped up and I'm left to reflect on my experience. Every year at the festival one has to gamble on what movies to see. Picking from the wide variety is always hard and sometimes a person can't really be sure if they'll really like what they picked. But with only a small idea of what each movie is going to be like, putting together a schedule of a variety of movies and daring to take a chance is all part of the fun.

Here is a collection of reviews of some of the movies I saw over the last week. You can see that a person can choose movies that match their taste. This year I attended a mix of American comedies and various Japanese and Chinese films, since those are the areas that interest me. It's all up to the individual. With hundreds of movies to choose from, a person can really pursue their own interests when attending the festival. And while every so often a gamble may come up flat, the majority of films are always high quality, and real movie fans will always find something they like in the mix.

It'll be another year before it returns with another huge line up of films previewing the next few months of the movie scene and bringing the international world of arts to Toronto. If you missed it this year and are interested in attending next year (or perhaps getting involved as a volunteer), go to the festival's website at www.bell.ca/filmfest and find out how and when you can get your hands on the guide for next year's films.

Big Shot's Funeral
Country: China

In this comedy Donald Sutherland plays a famous director who's lost his vision for film. While making a movie in China about the Qing Dynasty, Don Tyler decides that his work has never reached the level he aimed for and hires a local cameraman named Yoyo to follow him around and tape him as he ponders his problem. When the director is pulled off the movie project his depression and failing health leave him in a coma. His last wish: that Yoyo direct his funeral as a comedy feature. The funeral quickly become a marketing engine and when Tyler recovers from his coma the project is too big to stop.

Big Shot's Funeral is funny on different levels. Sutherland's performance as the slightly eccentric but lovable Tyler makes the situational comedy of his death a running joke throughout the movie. Meanwhile the Chinese performers add a frantic physical humour as their plans and partnerships become more and more sordid and out of control. Both areas of the film are well executed and while they contrast one another, the two types of comedy blend well, and the end result is a charming light hearted film, filled with a morbid humour aimed at the commercialism of filming.

Aiki
Country: Japan

When a young man loses the use of his legs in a motorcycle accident, his dreams of boxing fall apart. As the depression becomes more then he can deal with, Taichi quickly pushes all his loved one's away from him and falls into a harsh and self-destructive cycle. Lashing out at the world, he becomes consumed with self-pity and falls into alcoholism. Aiki is the story of his long struggle to bring meaning back into his life and find a reason to live. While his friends and family are the true reasons, it isn't until he takes up Aikido that he gains the perspective to see.

Despite the serious nature of the plot, Aiki isn't as grim as it sounds. It maintains an amazing mix of humour and drama to reveal itself as a very well rounded story. It makes the transition between light-hearted to emotional, goofy to serious, so fluidly that the viewer is easily caught up. Entertaining and dramatic, Aiki's sappy moments are so strongly contrasted by the depths of it's depressing moments, that neither seems out of place or too over the top. Based on true events, Aiki is an honestly heartening story, and proved to be one of my favorite festival films.

The Sweatbox
Country: United Kingdom

This movie is actually a documentary of the making of a Disney film, The Emperor's New Groove, which went quite terribly wrong. Originally storyboarded and written as a completely different story which was to be called Kingdom of the Sun, Disney officials totally rejected and ordered a revamp of the flick years into it's production. The Sweatbox follows the work of it's creators, giving an understanding of what goes into the making of a Disney film, and what anxieties it puts on the creators.

This documentary was actually one of the funnier movies I saw at the film fest. The interviews with the stressed out creators (one of which was the musician Sting, who was brought into the project early and had his original six songs scrapped when the entire premise of the movie changed) shows the smiling faces of people under an absurd amount of pressure. When put on camera and asked to comment on the butchering of their two year project, the hectic reaction of the stressed out film-makers is as entertaining as any well written script.

Welcome To Collinwood
Country: USA

A soon-to-be released comedy heist movie based in a poor area of inner-city Cleveland, Welcome To Collinwood is a hilarious slapstick piece inspired by the old classics of the genre. When a local petty thief is caught for grand theft auto his elderly cell mate tells him a secret: info on a heist so simple no one could screw it up, a 'Bellini' as the locals call it. When his plan leaks out all over town a small group of the neighbourhood reprobates set out to win the score. But complications arise, as they always do, and what results is a bungling so bad, you can only feel sorry for the poor bastards as you laugh at them.

With an excellent cast including Luis Guzman, Isaiah Washington, William H. Macy and George Clooney, Welcome To Collinwood puts together the saddest group of bungling criminals seen in recent history. It's dirty depiction of the poor inner-city gives the movie the perfect colourful backdrop to play against and a mix of strong directing and select music bring the antics together in a well produced package. While it's nothing groundbreaking, Welcome To Collinwood is a physical comedy that's a refreshing look back at the roots of physical comedy.

A Snake of June
Country: Japan

One of the things people often notice about some of the movies and arts that come from Japan is that the degree of their content can be quite strong. Especially when dealing with sexuality, we see that the general repression of such topics in the culture results in a very perverse level of detail when it is portrayed. A Snake of June is a movie that deals directly with that topic; it is the story of a married couple, too reserved to express their own sexual desires to one another, terrorized by a sexual pervert who becomes obsessed with seeing the wife come to an honest understanding of her desires.

The shock value of A Snake of June was perhaps stronger then it needed to be. Most audiences would be too uncomfortable with certain scenes to give the story the attention it deserves. In the end, if one can get past the heavy sexual perversity of the film, it's a fascinating story of how unhealthy the repression of normal emotions and desires can be, and how out of control a person can become when that restraint boils over.

The Emperor's Club
Country: USA

In this coming of age story Kevin Kline plays a professor of classical studies at a prestigious school for boys. His character, William Hundert, is an old world moralist focused on teaching the values of respect and tradition to the generation of future world leaders. When a rich upstart named Sedgewick Bell (Emile Hirsch) is enrolled Hundert finds himself drawn into conflict with his own morals. As he tries to show Sedgewick the worth of a moral life, how many allowances will he make for the young upstart?

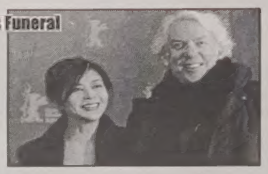
While some may find the topic of The Emperor's Club rather weak, the clash of ideologies between the old and the young is still interesting. Kevin Kline's character may seem hopelessly dated throughout most of the movie, but the ending puts a fresh face on his perspective. When he again meets Sedgewick as an adult, the question of how much of a difference he really made to the boy is revealed in all it's importance. Excellently written, The Emperor's Club is a tame story that, in the end, reveals itself to be as relevant as any other.

Shaolin Soccer
Country: Hong Kong, China

This is the story of a young man's quest to bring kung-fu to the modern world by gathering his former brothers-in-training and together, dominating the soccer world. Shaolin Soccer is upbeat and funny, not just in poking fun at the classic kung-fu genre, but also in having it's fun with western pop culture. One has to be in the mood for some off-the-wall silliness, but Shaolin Soccer delivers a good laugh even if you aren't crazy about slapstick.

Most of the appeal of Shaolin Soccer is in it's spoof of kung-fu classic traditions against the ridiculous backdrop of the soccer league. The fireball soccer kicks, the earth shattering saves and acrobatic feats are visually impressive and absurdly funny. This is slapstick with a big budget. More cynical and wry humour can also be found in the way the plot and character development makes fun of itself. For the most part though the comedy is anything but subtle, and at heart Shaolin Soccer will be funny for any fan of the kung-fu genre.

Big Shot's Funeral



Aiki

The Sweatbox

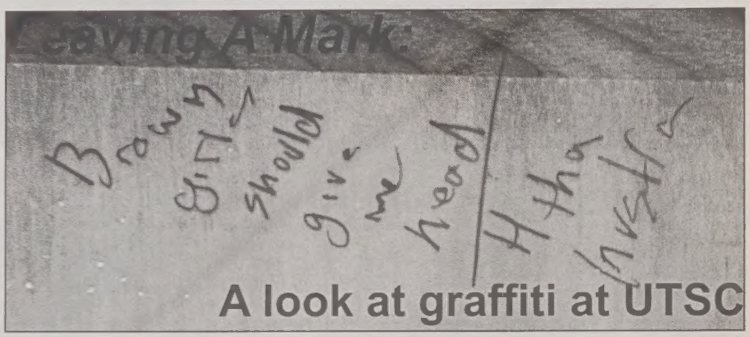
Welcome to Collinwood

A Snake of June

The Emperor's Club

Shaolin Soccer

feature feature



A look at graffiti at UTSC

Chris McKinnon
Editor in chief

Hate is alive and well at UTSC, boys and girls. You might have had a sneaking suspicion... You might have wondered of late if there aren't a few ticking time-bombs hustling through the halls alongside us between classes.

Take a walk through the S-wing or the H-wing, and have a good look at the study cubicles. You don't have to look hard, the graffiti is obvious, even at a distance. A lot of it is harmless fluff: So-and-so loves her. So-and-so loves him. Every now and again the vulgarity steps up a notch and you get something more crude, like "All brown girls must give me head." We could pass it by, let it go unchecked, but what does it mean to tolerate the existence of these words? What does it mean when we accept them as a fact of life? Is this really something that just happens; is the clean-up of graffiti an exercise in futility? I say, futile or not, we should not tolerate this graffiti. As a matter of principle, we should engage it. Homophobia, misogyny and ethnic slurs decorate our school. How does that make you feel?

Ethnic slurs abound. Cubicles the school over are overlaid with derogatory remarks about Italians, Pakistanis, Greeks, Afghanis, Palestinians, Jews and the list goes on. It seems quite frankly that tolerance is a lesson wasted on UTSC.

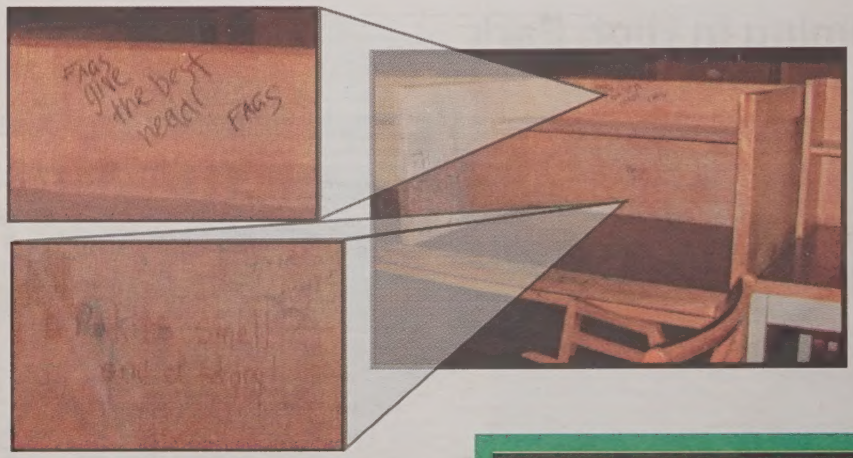
If you walk from the Leigha Leah Brown Theatre (at the far end of the S-Wing) towards the UTSC Police station, your eye might be caught by a particularly conspicuous piece of graffiti. It boldly stands out from others, written as it is in thick strokes of black magic marker. It is plainly visible from across the hall, down the hall, at a distance. It reads: "Fags give the best head Fags". The fact that this message is scrawled in large, thick letters, in marker no less, suggests premeditation. This wasn't some homo-repressed Phys. Sci. student, lashing out in homophobic angst with the pen he was using for his Calc homework. No. The man that did this thought about it, brought a marker, and he wanted others to see this. It was not a comment to be shared with a small group of like-minded souls, but rather a statement of hostility against the queer community. That particular defacement has been on that same desk for weeks, since before classes started. Who knows how long it will sit there, broadcasting its message of homophobia to anyone and everyone that walks through that hallway.

In a cubicle nearby, in similar mark and style, is another homophobic line: "_____ IS GAY". The personal nature makes it harassment, and I would encourage the young man whose name appears there to file a report with the UTSC Police. The block-lettering has since been scratched out, in a vain attempt to obscure the subject's name. It can be made out nonetheless, and we should regard this as a heartbreaking disappointment to the UTSC community. Not only has last year's Positive Space campaign failed (need I mention the pointed removal of PS signs and banners from all over the school,) it has failed quite miserably. Queer students at UTSC cannot feel safe here, perhaps even should not. When our community tolerates such hostile graffiti, messages that attack the integrity of a gay man's sense of self, it implicitly endorses it. When the issue remains unaddressed, we are implicated. We too are guilty of the crimes of marker-wielding thugs.

At UTSC, misogynous graffiti is more prolific than homophobic graffiti, though the latter is arguably more prominent. A brief inspection of the H-wing study cubicles will find a large drawing of a nude woman, using a knot in the wood of the desk as female genitalia. As I photographed it for this article, a couple of young women in the cubicles nearby remarked: "Isn't that nasty? Hey, look at this! Oh, gross!" Laughing like children who've stumbled across something naughty, they hardly noticed the objectification involved in the drawing. The most prominent aspect of this piece was the female genitalia, followed by the breasts. The image is surrounded by remarks, apparently added by persons other than the original artist, that reinforce the derogatory tone and coding of the image. This is no fertility goddess. This is woman as a sexual object, made and to be had for the pleasure of man.

And while my first instinct is to say that women should be offended (everyone should be offended!), given the response of those two women to the subject, I must ask why they were not offended. Why aren't you offended?

Why aren't we offended? The UTSC Police have an anti-graffiti programme, designed to respond to this problem. We have campus media (the paper you're reading right now, for instance,) forums (thanks to numerous clubs on campus) and services (minus a proper resource centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students) to discuss this problem, to open it to debate and begin a discourse on the problems we experience with diversity (cultural, ethnic, sexual or otherwise) on this campus. Open your eyes boys and girls, we're a long way from harmony.



You said it...

Do you think that graffiti is a problem at UTSC?

Name: Madiha Ahmed
Year: 2

"Yes, in the study cubicles everywhere... In the library especially, and the H-wing. If we clean it up, it will just happen again."

Name: Ashley Smith
Year: 1

"No. Not that I've noticed."

Name: Ming Wang
Year: 3

"The walls are all very clean. I don't see a lot of people defacing the walls."

Name: Traavis Ashburner
Year: 2

"No."

Name: Rayan Daoud
Year: 1

"So far I've only seen a little bit. Just little scribblings... Nothing big has caught my eye."

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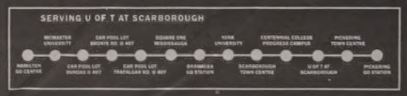

GET ON THE GO

Dreaming in High Park

Julianne Baragar

For the past twenty years, CanStage has been producing some of the most magical outdoor theatre in our city. In an amphitheatre deep in the woods at High Park, the company gathers each summer to stage, more often than not, a play from Shakespeare's repertoire. This annual tradition has come to be known as the Dream in High Park, appropriately named after the first show they staged there in 1982: Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

As a celebration of two decades of outdoor summer theatre, CanStage chose to remount the play that started it all. This year's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which closed on September 1st, broke attendance records and Pay-What-You-Can donation records (for more information about PWYC, see text box). Directed by Richard Greenblatt, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a bold yet accessible adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most produced comedies.

Set in the woods outside Athens, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* plays in three different worlds: those of the Athenian nobility, the fairy monarchy, and the rustic workmen who gather to present a play at the Duke's wedding. While the design and execution of the play as a whole was imaginative and captivating, the scenes involving the fairies were disappointingly bland. Maggie Huculak, playing Titania, the fairy queen, appeared uncomfortable and inelegant in her spandex and sequin costume. Walter Borden as Oberon, Titania's jealous husband, was tame and tedious despite his gilded get-up and booming voice. The young fairy devotees, endearing school children, played like cardboard, and Oberon's minions were neither magical nor frightening. Mysterious and enchanting on the page, Shakespeare's fairies were doomed in this production.

The human lovers shone, however, and their adventures in the woods were staged with comic and physical precision. Greenblatt's direction of these young actors was fresh, with modern gestures and references, and multi-lingual exchanges. The evening concluded with a presentation of the rustic workers' hilarious play, wherein Robert Persichini shone as the egotistical Bottom.

The most impressive element of this production, however, was the inventive soundscape designed by Rick Sacks. A percussionist known in the theatre for past collaborations with Greenblatt, Sacks created a dynamic aural environment by turning found objects into musical instruments, and turning the cast into a twenty-five piece orchestra. His sound design accented the physicality of the performance, and was the only inspiring element of the fairy sequences.

The Dream in High Park was an enchanting experience. The wooded walk to the amphitheatre, the slow sunset, and the starlit performance created a magical atmosphere for a tale of romance and the supernatural. Though not a thoroughly dazzling piece of theatre, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a beautiful way to pass a late summer's eve that captivated the diverse audience that gathered in High Park.

Pay What You Can for your entertainment

Julianne Baragar

Pay What You Can (PWYC) is literally that: an opportunity for anyone to attend the theatre and pay a ticket price that they can afford. Most theatres have student discounts, but PWYC is an alternate opportunity to see shows at a reasonable price.

Cristina Prinzo, a UTSC student of Arts Management and Gate Manager for this years' CanStage Dream in High Park, has the following advice to give for PWYC theatregoing:

1. "You should feel comfortable paying what you can offer at that moment." Cristina noted that students on the whole make a valiant effort to actually "pay what they can" and often feel guilty if they can't offer the $15 suggested minimum.
2. "Try to support the cause in other ways." If you like what you see, offer to volunteer for the theatre, spread the word, continue to attend shows by that company, and make another donation later, when you can afford it.
3. "It is not usually possible to reserve seating, so come early." PWYC performances are often sold out an hour before the show starts, and most theatres have no reserved seating. Ask the theatre when they begin to sell tickets for the show and arrive at that time, or even before, in order to ensure you get tickets and a good seat.

Toronto has a number of regular PWYC arrangements:

Canadian Stage Company -Monday evenings - www.canstage.com
Tarragon Theatre - Sunday matinees - www.tarragontheatre.com
Factory Theatre - Sunday matinees - www.factorytheatre.ca
Theatre Passe Muraille - Sunday matinees and Previews - www.passemuraille.on.ca

Help Wanted

Interested in working at a music store? Deja Vu Discs buys and sells used CDs and DVDs. We are looking for part-time staff for our Scarborough store. Applicants must be customer service oriented and must possess a broad knowledge of music.
We are holding an open interview session on Saturday September 21th from 11am to 3pm. Please bring your resume with you.
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reviews reviews

Falling Through the Blast-beats

Andrew C. Epstein

Album Name: ***Everything I Touch Falls to Pieces***
Band Name: **Dead To Fall**
Record Label: Victory Records
Rating: ★★★½☆

Before I even start I want to quote a passage from Dead To Fall's bio that accompanied this record. "**Dead To Fall** plays with ferociousness that will undoubtedly give the metal world the jolt it so desperately needs". At this point, the record is already doomed as far as press is concerned. If your touting your band as the wake-up call for an entire genre, and you're not totally original, then you have problems.

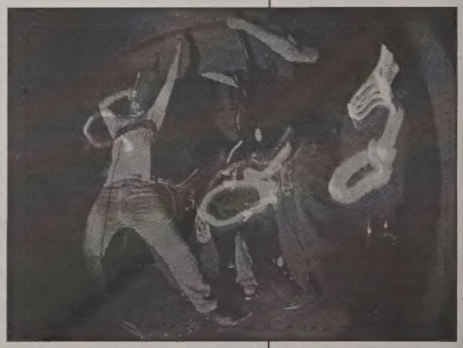
Naturally Dead To Fall's debut record *Everything I Touch Falls To Pieces*, doesn't revolutionize heavy music, however it's actually pretty damn good, in the tradition of some great death metal bands, including Cannibal Corpse, Entombed, Carcass, and Obituary. Hailing from Chicago this five piece, led by singer Jonathan Hunt, treads over familiar material but slices in elements of hardcore and even a bit of a nu-metal influence. There are the familiar short riffs and blast beat drumming, but the band takes the time to veer off into more technically impressive tunes and progressions.

From the opening track "Memory" they establish themselves with a deep heavy groove and rather long opening before Hunt takes over with his Chris Barnes meets Max Cavalera growls. "The Eternal Gates of Hell" follows and is probably the best song on the record with its short brutality and intensity.

For much of the record the band roots itself in the deep groove that opens the record. It's not until the track "Graven Image" where the band moves into completely new territory by adding power metal solos and more effects. However where the music exceeds, Hunt's lyrics fall a little short. Ok now I admit that in most cases, death metal lyricism isn't that important. Only a few bands really have written anything relevant enough for you to follow along with in the liner notes. In this case Hunt borrows a page from the book of Deicide's Glen Benton and goes for the blasphemous route rather than the gore-filled one pioneered by Chris Barnes. However Hunt really doesn't run with it and the remainder of the record turns into something based more around personal vengeance than anything else, and sometimes it comes off a little whiny. Take for instance this excerpt from "Words Ignored": "I have really grown to hate you, and everything you stand for / I write these words in vain, you won't read them." However I suppose that it doesn't matter too much as Hunt mostly makes up for it in his delivery.

As a whole, Dead To Fall maintains a great metal tradition but probably won't make any dents in the metal scene, no matter how much their label says they will. Like many before them this group has created a sound that is directly reminiscent of their heroes, but now with a debut in the bag, it will be time for them to either put up or shut up. If they deliver another record that sounds like this one, no one will really find a connection with them. However there is some evidence that the band will do the exact opposite.

Close to the end of the record appears an instrumental track entitled "Doraematu" (apparently performed by their departed guitarist), and it shows a definite versatility and open-mindedness not seen too much in a contemporary metal release. If this is a sign of things to come, then we are in store for a much more original release from Dead To Fall in the future. If not then at least they made one record with the dignity and precision of a great sound that isn't used too much today. But if you ask me, the bands that came before are much, much more impressive.



Sleeping Harvard

Film: ***Stealing Harvard***
Genre: Comedy
Starring: Jason Lee, Tom Green, and John C. McGinley
Director: Bruce McCulloch
Producer: Revolution Studios and Imagine Entertainment
Rating: ★★★☆☆

Christian Lucier

The first thing I have to say about *Stealing Harvard* is that it lacks. It lacks witty jokes, character interaction, and a well played out storyline. It is not that *Stealing Harvard* is a horrible film; it is just that there are many holes in it that are obvious to the viewer. This same defect appears in other Bruce McCulloch films, such as *Dog Park*. The formula and causes of these holes are similar: Take a 'B' grade story, add a mediocre cast, and mix with a director of weak abilities. There are still a few noteworthy scenes in the film, especially when Tom Green (Duff) and John C. McGinley (Detective Charles) play off each other's enthusiasm and creativity.

The plot in *Stealing Harvard* is about as engaging as a child's storybook. "Regular Joe" John (Jason Lee) is in a tight spot. John promises his niece (Tammy Blanchard) that he will pay for her university when the time comes. The time comes, and John is hit with a thirty thousand dollar tab. Due to a restricting budget, John now has to resort to other methods in order to get the thirty grand. This is where Tom Green comes in. Green plays John's extremely bizarre friend Duff, and the two, as a result of one of Duff's grand ideas, embark on a life of crime in order to flip the bill. Through this new occupation John and Duff encounter numerous follies and mishaps. The highest point of humor in the movie is the result of John and Duff's toques. They look like absolute morons when they go into "burglar mode". Let's just say Duff leaves his eighties bridge framed specs on even when the toque goes down.

It is safe to say there are no award winning performances in this flick. Jason Lee was certainly not up to par. Compared to his other performances in such films as *Mumford*, *Almost Famous*, and *Mall Rats*, Lee comes off as being incredibly bored with the role. It's either this or Lee doesn't have the goods to be a leading man. Tom Green, on the other hand, makes strides as Duff. Thankfully, Green tones down his Kaufman-esque humour and focuses on developing a solid character. Once Duff is introduced, the movie gets a hell of a lot better. The performance of John C. McGinley is also quite good. McGinley brings his unique energy and breathes new life into the movie with the stubborn Detective Charles. As for all the other actors, well, they were there too.

Stealing Harvard is an alright movie. It is not particularly good, but at the same time is doesn't suck. The laughs are there, however they are few and far apart. The best way to describe this movie is by saying that it is like a pretzel without the salt. I wouldn't recommend rushing to the theatre to catch this movie. It is rental material for sure. Tom Green basically steals the show, however not even his presence is enough to keep this boat afloat. Bottom line: Sleeping Harvard.

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life

UTSC Police Introduce a *Guide To UTSC Police Services And Community Partnership Programs*

Cpl. Chris Moy
UTSC Police

The University of Toronto Police at Scarborough have introduced a handbook outlining the services that they provide to the community as well as the partnership programs that operate with the assistance of community volunteers.

The UTSC Police Services delivery model is based on a community policing philosophy which encourages the interactive partnership between the police and members of the community to facilitate a team approach to safety and security. As community members you can play your part by locking your vehicle, bicycle and residence, office or lab when you leave to prevent unauthorized access to your property, and by not leaving your personal property, such as laptops, wallets, purses and backpacks unattended.

The purpose of this handbook is to create awareness within the community by providing information on the UTSC Police Service, the UTSC Community itself, and safety and security information on many topics that affect staff, students, faculty and visitors to the University of Toronto. We provide Emergency contact numbers and both University and area referrals. It outlines growth and the related construction projects at UTSC and the inherent safety issues.

Tips on protecting your property, what to do if your property is taken, card cancellation and replacement numbers are provided. UTSC Police also operate a Lost and Found Service.

An outline of the WalkSafer and RideSafer Services, the UTSC Traffic Safety Program, Lone Worker Program, Anti-Graffiti Program, the Bike Patrol Unit is also included.

Specific information is available for UTSC students living in residence. This includes the Village Watch Program, and residence safety and security matters.

Student volunteers annually participate in the UTSC Student Crime Stoppers Committee. Campus incidents are discussed and solutions to curb ongoing problems are sought. Selected crimes are advertised through campus media with the hope that witnesses will step forward or anonymously report information to the Student Crime Stoppers hotline at 416-222-TIPS(8477). A reward is offered for information which leads to a successful conclusion to any investigation. These volunteers also assist the UTSC Police in crime prevention programs directed at addressing any current issues.

As a courtesy to the community, UTSC Police also provide, free of charge, "Call Police" signs for roadside safety and battery booster packs to get you car back on the road.

University Police participate in a number of annual fundraising events including the Chum City Christmas Wish Toy Drive and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics, as well as the popular annual Cops For Cancer Head Shave event. Members of the UTSC Police have their heads shaved in the Meeting place to raise funds and show support for children with cancer. This yearly event proves entertaining to students and staff alike.

Guidelines on "When to contact UTSC Police and 911 are outlined". Issues related to driving and parking regulations, as well as the use of alcohol on campus, are explained.

Information sheets on Date Rape Drugs, Criminal Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Drinking and Driving, and "What to do if you are involved in an Accident" are included in the handbook.

The contents of the "Guide to UTSC Police Services and Partnership Programs" are based on the UTSC Police website at www.utsc.utoronto.ca/police/. Many of the articles can be printed from this location. The handbook itself is available at the UTSC Police office at the main entrance of the Sciences Wing. UTSC Police can be contacted at 416-287-7398 for general enquiries and 416-287-7333 for emergencies.

MORE MAYBE HELPFUL NEWS From *FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES*

The first week of classes is complete and everyone should now know that S-361 is The Pavillion and the BV prefix on timetables means a B-Wing room.

Meal Plans-one way to stretch the food service dollar

You may have noticed some posters and brochures at various places on campus advertising meal plan options from Food Services. If you didn't read through the material here are some of the highlights:

- Meal plans at UTSC are completely optional.
- Meal plans are not limited to residence students.
- The meal plans work on a declining balance system. You purchase a meal plan from Aramark campus services for a pre-determined value (the minimum is $50.) and you are issued a card. When buying food at any of the campus outlets operated by Aramark you present the card to the cashier. The card is scanned, recording the transaction and deducting the cost of the purchase from your balance. You receive a receipt giving you the details.
- The convenience and security of being able to make purchases without cash is one advantage but the biggest benefit is that if you use the meal plan frequently enough to meet some minimum standards under the tax laws, you may be exempt from paying federal and provincial sales taxes on your purchases (15%) in most cases.
- The Aramark Food services Director can give you a detailed explanation of qualification for tax exemptions and the other incentives that Aramark offer on meal plans.
- You can buy into a meal plan any time during the year.
- If you start with a small meal plan and find it useful, you can add more money whenever you want.

Pita Pit

Thanks to all who dropped by the R-Wing cafeteria to try out the newest franchise. Even the people from the Pita Pit head office were overwhelmed with the response and not expect the demand to be so great. Fortunately, they were able to get more additional product into the campus.

As a way of saying thanks to the campus, Pita Pit and Aramark are sponsoring a draw for a bike. It is currently on display in the R-Wing cafeteria where entry forms are available. The draw will be held on September 30th, 2002. The prize will be presented to the winner on October 1st, 2002.

Tim Horton's Update.

No further information is available. We know the contractors are on site doing work.

Thinking of Others

It's obvious that this year is going to challenge our patience and imagine. Serving larger numbers of people in limited facilities requires everyone's cooperation.

- Again, we ask you to avoid using the cafeterias for study space during peak service times--11am-3pm and 4pm-7pm.. By the time you are reading this, additional study space will be set up in the Attic. The room will be open for study use from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m..
- Again, we ask that you do not move around the tables and chairs-the furniture is placed for maximum seating. More importantly, when furniture gets moved it may often block access for the UTSC members who rely on wheelchairs, scooters and other devices for mobility.
- Again, please clean up after yourself and use the proper receptacles for garbage and recyclables.

Weekly Meeting with the Aramark Food Services Director

The weekly meetings are held in the H-Wing cafeteria on Thursdays between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Next week the notes from first meeting will be posted outside the main entrance to the H-Wing cafeteria and published in the September 25th issue of The Underground.

Anytime questions come up, contact me at the e-mail below. I may not have the answer you want but at least I'll have an answer.

Peter Smith
Manager, Food and Beverage Services
UTSC
pjhsmith@utsc.utoronto.ca

A Paid Advertisement

A Paid Advertisement

Any Given Tuesday:
The Story of the Fossil & Haggis

Nocturnal Street Whores *On Rez*

Julie "The Mistress" Harper &
Sophie "Summerfuck" Nicholson

"I wanna fuck you like I3!" and the Fossil and Haggis was alive once again for their first karaoke night of the school year. Hundreds, well not exactly hundreds - Many people flocked to the Fossil to enjoy a night of debauchery. Birthdays were celebrated, hearts were broken, and some went home wiht people they barely knew. All in all, it was a great night. On any given night at the 'Fossil' you're bound to find the same old characters: The raging hussies, the hardcore alcoholics, the clingy psychopaths, the intellectuals that converse on the couches, and the responsible people who enjoy the evening without alcohol (yeah, right!) If videotaped, this would not be just 'Another Teen Movie', but a sweeping multi-character porno dubbed "It's Time to Get Hardcore Fossilized." If you are looking for cougars and muulets welcome to your Garden of Eden. At times you might even be able to catch a little felatio, amidst the dim lights of the parking, lot to the fabulous hum of some country and western radio station.

Why do we continue to assemble at this small, seedy bar? Simple. It's close by. And really, what else is there to do in Scarborough besides going to Caesar's? (Which, on a side note, rocked!) The Fossil and Haggis is located in a mini-plaza just off Morningside. This grotto unleashes the beast in the most timid of men and women... Some have even called it "Incredible."

What follows is our inebriated account...

Our eyes were ablaze with controversy. Our intake was extreme, as we stumbled through that smokey haze of confusion. Why do we call it Fossil? Because our minds will be embedded with the memories of this bliss for years to come- well more like for the next five minutes, until that next pitcher arrives, pumping more booze to our brains, like heroin sliding through our veins. Are we to spend our remaining years at UTSC joining these lost souls at Fossil? Or is it a quick fuck, like jiffy-pop on the burner?

After considering these debacles, we make our way over to the bar, failing in the attempt to walk. In between buying a round of sex on the beach and being groped by that gross old man that follows you around the bar - Yes, every great place has one! - we catch a glimpse of the future; and drink again. As reality hits us like a bitch slap, we forgo that future with a shot of tequila (which, by the way, is a sport.) Now we are fucked, exactly where we wanted to be. Why make sense of this evening when it'll end with turmoil regardless?

There are so many people looking for love in the wrong places. But who can blame them? If you think beer goggles are the problem, consider 'beer plugs' that suck you in like Wagner's sirens to the Rock of Doom. "It would be nice to get a blow job from your mom," but we all make due with accessibility.

Weekly Haiku

by Sachin Hingoo

If you must watch birds
Do not look them in the eye
They can sense your fear.

Best Buddies Program Catalyzes Positive Change

Philipp Santiago

For the past thirteen years, post secondary students have been forming friendships with intellectually disabled peers, through the Best Buddies program. In 1987, as a student at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., Anthony Kennedy Shriver formed an organization that would bring together those with and without developmental disabilities. Experienced with the disabled, Shriver rightly acknowledged the need to facilitate such unique friendships; he had the steadfast resolve to change the way the world saw people with disabilities. Little did he know that the national, non profit organization that he would form two years later would go on to reach international status. The first Canadian chapter was established in 1993 at York University, and Best Buddies Canada became a registered Canadian charity in 1995. Abroad, chapters are presently held in Greece, Egypt, Ireland, Sweden and Cuba, all due to Anthony's vision.

Shriver's vision continues to enlighten today's youth, and challenge a world whose views still need to be contested. Although many adults with intellectual disabilities live independently in community residences, go to school or to work, they are still associated with negative labels, and are not celebrated or recognized for being contributing members of society. Best Buddies aims to educate, to demonstrate the benefits of a more inclusive society.

Best Buddies matches post secondary students, and this year has implemented the program in ten Toronto high schools, with adults who have intellectual disabilities. Within a university, college, or high school community, matches are made between compatible individuals. Buddies, (the intellectually disabled person), and Student Buddies, (students), then communicate by phone once a week, and meet twice a month for one-to-one activities. There are also four group events that are held within the school year. At these events all the Buddy Student Buddy pairs can mingle and enjoy themselves by broadening their social circles. Although the program runs from midfall to late spring, many friendships outlast the dates set out by the organization and stretch through the summer, until the program resumes in September. This is what Best Buddies hopes for. Once Best Buddies has helped create a friendship, it naturally becomes more and more comfortable, and ceases to be tense and formulaic, as any new relationship can be. All society needs is a little education on the Best Buddies program, encouragement, and a little direction to begin these unique friendships.

Too often, adults with intellectual disabilities are casually excluded from social and cultural life. How easily society fails to be aware of all the abilities that a disabled person has. A person with a disability has the ability to be a reliable employee, an all-star athlete, a jivin' dance partner, a loving soul mate, and a comforting friend. How strange it is that society concentrates only on the differences that divide us, and is blind to the similarities that should bring us closer together.

Since my freshman year, as a Student Buddy and later the Activities Coordinator at the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, I have directed my efforts towards this worthwhile organization. This year, alongside Christine Fernando, who also has been dedicated to Best Buddies for the last two years, we will take on the roles of Campus Coordinators. With the help of our Host Site Coordinator, Rebecca Lovering-Spencer, our Buddy Advocate, Andy Andianidris, and Laura Bailey, Best Buddies' Volunteer Coordinator for the Greater Toronto Area, Christine and I hope to bring much-needed awareness to the university, while having lots of fun in doing so!

Between the 9th and 12th of August, I was fortunate to represent my campus at the annual Best Buddies Leadership Conference, held this year at McMaster University, Hamilton. Young leaders represented universities and colleges from across Canada, from Saint Mary's in Nova Scotia to the Okanagon University in British Columbia. Today 52 colleges and universities participate in Best Buddies Canada, offered in both official languages.

Over the span of the 3-day conference we underwent intensive training, learning how to run the program successfully within our own school communities. We were also given the opportunity to reflect on the growing success of Best Buddies, as we met other Canadians with similar initiatives, devoted to helping those with intellectual disabilities.

I encourage everyone to participate in the Best Buddies program, whether by becoming a Student Buddy, making a donation or by taking our message, our mission, to heart. Catalyze positive change in the world ... in any fathomable way. Good luck to all of this year's Campus Coordinators. I wish you every success with your chapters and sharing the gift of friendship!

Though Best Buddies strives to facilitate friendships between students and peers with intellectual disabilities, the effects of the program are not limited to the students. Society at large experiences the benefits as well. Not only do the parties involved form friendships they would likely never have had the opportunity to form, but communities have the opportunity to see for themselves that we are not that much different from each other after all.

See not with judgmental, discriminating eyes. Rather with a just, candid soul.

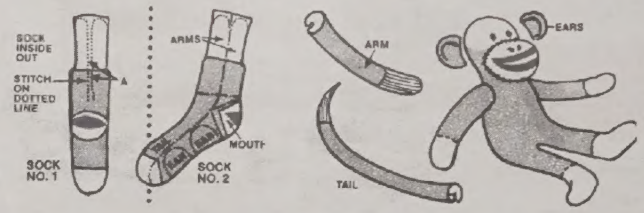
For more information, contact Philipp Santiago and Christine Fernando via e-mail: changetheworld@soon.com and visit the Best Buddies website: www.bestbuddies.ca

diversions

diversions

Hey bud, school's not just for academics. Check out this column when you're looking for something to take your mind of that big mother chem exam. Now maybe you'll actually have fun on Friday nights...

by Kelly Lisle



the SOCK MONKEY: your new best friend

Are you bored and alone? Are all of your "friends" too busy to spend time with you? Here's the perfect solution: Make yourself a friend. He's warm and small, fits in your backpack and will never be too busy to cuddle with you. I think its obvious that you need to make a sock monkey, so get on it. The instructions are as follows:

YOU WILL NEED:

1. One pair of wooly work socks
2. Stuffing - cut up old nylons, cotton batting, shredded foam rubber etc.
3. Red yarn and a big bad needle.

INSTRUCTIONS:

TURN THE SOCKS INSIDE OUT

BODY:
Sew a seam (A) 1/2 inch on both sides of the center of sock starting three inches from the white heel and across the end of the top. Cut the sock between the seams and to within 1-1/2 inches of white heel. This leaves an opening in the crotch.

Then turn the sock so the seams are on the inside and use the crotch opening to stuff the head, body and legs.

ARMS:
Cut the upper part of the sock into two pieces. Seam, rounding the ends and stuff the arms.

MOUTH:
Cut the heel from the sock, leaving a small edge around the white. Fasten on lower part of the face, whip-stitching around the bottom; stuff and finish sewing around the top. The mouth can be improved by a running stitch of either black or white across the middle of the lips.

TAIL:
Cut a one inch strip, taper to end of cuff on length of front of sock. Seam and stuff.

EARS:
Cut the ears from the remaining part of the sole of the sock.

EYES:
Sew on moving eyes, buttons, felt, or embroider with black thread. If you put big red X's for eyes your monkey will look like your crazy wooly sidekick.

CAP: (Optional)
Cut off toe of another sock, leaving 1/2 inch of brown to roll for a brim. Sometimes a fez is used for a cap.

the design for this monkey was pillaged from the following website:
http://lennytaylor.freeyellow.com/monkey.htm
-Ed.

Hey? Do you like free movies?

You can win free double-pass to see "Sweet Home Alabama," starring...

We totally can't remember who's in this movie. Can you believe that? It doesn't matter. The first 20 people to show up at the Underground office in S-364 (the same snazzy portable as always) and tell us who's starring in this movie will win double-passes to see it.

Serious takers only please. Don't waste our precious passes.

here's a hint...

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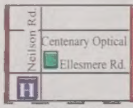

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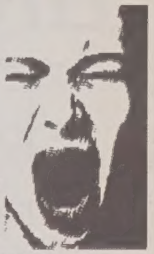

The Underground

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— call us at 416-287-7054
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— or leave us an angry post-it note on our office door at S364 (that's right, it's a portable...)

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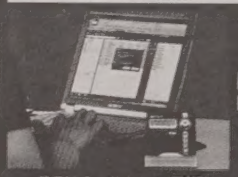
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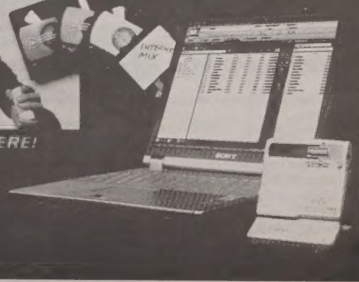

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